**AMAZING PEACE**  by Maya Angelou

In our joy, we think we hear a [whisper](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/whisper).  
At first it is too soft.   Then only half heard.  
We listen carefully as it [gathers](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/gather) strength.  
We hear a sweetness.  
The word is Peace.  
It is loud now.  
Louder than the explosion of bombs.

We [tremble](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/tremble) at the sound.  
We are [thrilled by](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/thrilled) its presence.  
It is what we have [hungered for](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/hungered).  
Not just the absence of war.   But true Peace.  
A harmony of spirit, and comfort of courtesies.  
Security for our [beloveds](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/beloved) and their beloveds.

We, [Angels](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/angel) and [Mortals](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/mortal), [Believers](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/believers) and [Nonbelievers](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/nonbeliever),  
Look heavenward and speak the word [aloud](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/aloud).

Peace.  We look at each other, then into ourselves,  
And we say without shyness or apology or hesitation:

Peace, My Brother.  
Peace, My Sister.  
Peace, My Soul.

Source: Angelou, Maya, Amazing Peace. Retrieved from <http://worldunderstandingandpeace.com/2007/09/03/great-poem-on-peace-amazing-peace-by-maya-angelou/>

## Vocabulary:

### Verbs:

gathers

tremble

thrilled by

hungered for

### Nouns:

**PEACE**

whisper

harmony of spirit

comfort of courtesies

beloveds

angels and mortals

believers and nonbelievers

### Adjectives:

**AMAZING**

### Adverbs:

aloud

# Comprehension Questions:

1. Why does Maya Angelou say the sound of peace is louder than “the explosion of bombs” in the first stanza?
2. In the second stanza of the poem What does the poet mean when she says:

Not just the absence of war.  But true Peace.  
A harmony of spirit, and comfort of courtesies.  
Security for our [beloveds](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/beloved) and their beloveds.

1. Based on the example in question 2, what do you think is the denotation of the word “peace?” What is the connotation of the word “peace?”
2. Do you think the definition of peace is based on a person’s culture? Explain your answer.